Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes
Canada

News Release

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CRTC RENEWS CFCM-TV LICENCE FOR TWO YEARS AND DENIES REQUEST TO DECREASE LOCAL PRODUCTION

OTTAWA/HULL -- The CRTC today renewed, for only two years, Télé-Métropole Inc.'s broadcasting licence for its Quebec City television station CFCM-TV (channel 4). The Commission also denied the licensee's request to decrease the station's local production from 21 hours to 17 hours and 23 minutes a week (Decision CRTC 95-62). Today's decision follows a CRTC public hearing in Montréal in October 1994.

"Many interveners at our public hearing told us they are strongly opposed to any reduction in local production by CFCM-TV," said CRTC Chairman Keith Spicer. "The Commission has always insisted that the station maintain a significant level of local production given the size of its market and the tremendous cultural vitality of that market. We will continue to require Télé-Métropole to honour the commitment it made in 1990 to transform Quebec City into a major centre of television production."

"This short-term renewal reflects the Commission's serious concerns about Télé-Métropole's repeated failures in the past to honour its obligations regarding local production," Mr. Spicer explained. "It will allow the Commission to reassess the station's performance after a relatively short period, at a time when we will be considering the licence renewals of the other television stations in the Quebec City area. We will be assessing each station's contribution to local reflection of the community it serves."

The CFCM-TV licence, now renewed from September 1, 1995 to August 31, 1997, carries the condition that CFCM-TV maintain at least 21 hours per week of local production (not including repeats). The programs must be on subjects of local interest and be targeted at viewers residing in the Quebec City area. In addition, at least 11 hours of this weekly local production must be broadcast exclusively by CFCM-TV. Other local productions can be carried on the TVA network.

The Commission puts Télé-Métropole on notice that should it fail again to carry out its obligations with respect to local production, it could be called to a public hearing to explain why the Commission should not issue a mandatory order against it, as permitted under the *Broadcasting Act* (ss. 122). Failure to obey this order would make the broadcaster liable, for instance, to a fine or other penalty.

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Copies of today's decision are available through the public examination room at any of the following CRTC offices:

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